



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

EUROPEAN TALES FROM THE PLAINS OJIBWA.¹

BY ALANSON SKINNER.

I. THE TWO BROTHERS.

THERE was once an old man living alone with his wife. They had a horse and one dog, a spaniel. They hunted and fished only in the big lake. Once upon a time they could not get any fish in the nets, and they were very hungry. The man went to look after his net in the morning, and found a jackfish with a large head. As he was going to kill the fish, it said, "Hold on, old man! Don't kill me right away!" The old man stopped, and the fish told the old man to take all its scales off and not to lose any, and to go and put these in the garden. It also told him to cut off its fins and place them in the garden, to cut its head off and give it to his wife to eat, half of its body to be fed to the dog, and the other end to the horse. He told the old man to shut the stable, but not to look at it for four days and four nights, and not to look at the scales for four days and four nights, but each morning after that he could look. The old man then killed it and took it home. He told his wife about it; and she asked, "Is that true?" — "Yes," answered the old man, and repeated all. "We will obey. We are poor and hungry, maybe we shall have good luck." He scaled and cut the fish and put it in the garden. He also fed his wife, dog, and horse as he had been told, and shut the stable. For four days and nights he could not sleep. His wife became pregnant; and on the fourth morning she had two sons, and the old man was glad. He ran to the stable, and found that the mare had two foals, the dog two pups. He went to the garden, and there was silver money where the scales had been placed. There were two fine swords where the fins had been. The old man ran in to tell his wife what had happened, and they were delighted. After that the old man caught many fish. Soon his boys grew up.

One time, when they were home in the evening, the elder boy said, "Are there any other people in the world?" — "Certainly, there are many people." — "Where can I find them?" — "You can find them anywhere." The youth said, "I will start to-morrow to try to visit some people." He left his sword, and told his brother, "I shall take

¹ Collected, 1913, from the Plains Ojibwa (Bungi), on the Long Plains Reserve, Manitoba. — A. S.

See Bolte and Polívka, *Anmerkungen zu den Kinder- u. Hausmärchen der Brüder Grimm*, vol. i, p. 528. — F. B.

yours, and leave mine hanging here. Do not touch it! If I have trouble or if I am killed, it will become rusty." Then he went off. About dinner-time he dismounted and drank from a spring. He found silver water; and when he dipped his little finger into it, it became solid silver. He put some of the water on the horse's ears, and they became silver. He did the same to the dog's, and also on his own hair. Then he started off.

When he came to a large town, he took off his clothes, found some old ones, and put rags around his finger and a handkerchief over his hair. He had a little box in which he put the horse and dog after making them small, and hid them in a blacksmith's shop. The blacksmith looked at him. "Where are you from?" — "Is there a town here? I am very poor." — "Oh, come in!" The blacksmith fed him. The man said, "I can keep you here," and engaged him to do the chores in the house. He staid there a while, when one night the blacksmith came home and said, "The king of this town has a fine daughter, and she is going to be fed to the Windigo that has eight heads. He eats only people." — "When is she going to be taken there?" — "To-morrow morning."

The next day, after his work, the young man went out. He mounted his horse, took his dog, put on his own clothes, and rode out of the city. After a while he heard some one weeping in the woods. He turned in that direction, and found a young girl who was crying. She stopped when she saw him. The young man asked her, "Why are you crying?" — "There is no use telling you." — "Oh, no! tell me!" — "Where are you going? There is no use telling you." — "Oh, yes! you must tell me." Then the girl, seeing that he was a stranger, said, "I will tell you. I am going to yonder bluff. There is an eight-headed manitou there, and I am going to be eaten by him." — "Why?" — "He wants me." — "What if you do not go?" — "Then he would devour every one in the city. Therefore I must go."

Then the youth said, "I will go first. You can go when I come back." — "No, no! you must not go. I am not going there for life, I am going there to die." — "If that is so, I must see him first." — "Oh, no!" The young man said, "I will go and come back. You stay here." — "Well, go on! but he will kill you," and she gave the boy a ring. He then went to the bluff, and saw that the trees were shaken by the breath of the manitou. He stopped, and said to his horse and dog, "Try as hard as you can to help me," and then he rode on. The horse and dog sank deep into the soil. The boy took his sword and cut off one head, which sprang back again. Then he told his dog to catch it; and he hit the monster again, cutting off another of his heads. The dog seized it and shook it. The youth cut off another one, and the horse kicked it. When he had cut off four heads, the

manitou was not breathing very strongly. Finally he killed him. He cut out all the tongues and put them in a handkerchief. When he came back, he found the girl waiting, and told her that he had killed the manitou. He told the girl to go home and take the tongues with her, but not to tell who killed the manitou. "Give the tongues to your father, and say that a young fellow did it, but that you do not know who."

The blacksmith was working at home. "Where are you going, — home? No, you have to be eaten by the manitou." — "The manitou has been killed." — "Nobody can kill him." The girl showed him the tongues. Then the blacksmith believed her, and asked her who had killed him. "I do not know, he is a youth." — "Go home and tell your father that I killed him. If you don't, I will kill you." The girl agreed, and he went with her. Her father and mother asked her why she had come back, and she told them that the blacksmith had killed the manitou. She called him in, and they asked him, "How did you do it?" — "I hit his tongues."

The king was very glad, and gave the girl to the blacksmith. The youth went home, put his horse back into the box, dressed in his old clothes.

There was to be a four-days' dance before the wedding. After three nights' dance, the blacksmith was very glad, and told the boy that this was the last night. Then the lad put on his clothes. He came into the lodge and sat down by the door. The girl knew him at once, and told her father secretly that he had slain the monster. The king invited him to a better place. The blacksmith wanted to go out, pretending that his stomach pained him, but he was not allowed to leave. He was locked up, taken to the sea, and thrown in. The youth married the girl; and the king gave him half of the town, half of his money, and half of everything he owned, he was so glad that his daughter had been saved. They went upstairs into their rooms. There was a window at the top on the east side of the house, and from there could be seen a blue fire at a distance.

"What kind of fire is that?" asked the youth.

"Do not ask about it," said the princess, "and never go near it."

On the next day he took his little horse and dog and went to the fire. There he saw an old, long house. He entered the first room, but there was no one there. After a while he heard some one. The door opened, and a white-headed old woman came in, and said, "Grandchild, hold your little dog, he will bite me. I am cold." — "Warm yourself, the dog will not touch you." — "You must tie him." — "I have nothing to tie him with." So the old lady gave him one hair, and said, "*Nosis*, tie him with that." The youth did so, and also tied the horse. The old woman had a cane. She touched him with it on the feet, and he died.

One morning the other youth, who had been left at home, saw rust on the sword. He said to his father, "I fear brother is dead somewhere, for his sword is rusty. I must go and try to find him." His father consented, and told him to be careful.

The next morning the elder brother left. About noon he found the same spring, and did as his brother had done. In the evening he came to the city and went to the chief's house. The girl came out and kissed him, and asked him where he had been, but he did not answer. They had supper, and he thought to himself, "That must be my brother's wife." At night he refused to go to bed. Through the window he saw the blue fires. He asked, "What kind of fires are those?" — "Why did you not go over to see?"

In the morning he went there. When he arrived there, he saw his brother's horse and dog tied with brass wire, lying down and frozen to death. He went into the lodge, and saw that his brother also lay dead by the fire. Soon he heard some one coming. An old woman appeared, and said, "I am cold." — "Warm yourself by the fire." — "First tie your little dog."

He refused to do so, and finally said, "Now, granny, make that man and horse and dog alive! If you do not do so at once, I shall send the dog after you." — "*Nosis*, I cannot bring a dead man to life." — "You have to." — "No."

Then he set his dog on her. The dog bit her, and the horse kicked her.

"Stop! I'll bring them to life." He stopped the animals, and the old woman walked forward. The youth kept away from her cane. She told him to take up a little bottle and put it on his frozen brother. As soon as he dropped some of the liquid from the bottle into his mouth, he came to. She did the same to the dog and to the horse. Then the brothers killed the old woman. They took the bottle away from her and went home. As they rode along together, the elder brother said, "You must be married. Yes. Your wife mistook me for you, but I only let her sleep with my arm. That's how I found out."

The younger brother, on hearing this, became jealous. He drew back and shot his brother with his revolver. He also shot his dog and horse. Then he went home, and his wife was glad to see him. She asked him why he refused to sleep with her last night. "You only let me have your hand." Then the brother began to sorrow for his brother. He took his horse and went back to the corpse. There he wept over his brother. His little dog ran around the dead body, and began to look inside the coat. There he found the old woman's little bottle. He put some of the liquid on the wound, and thus brought the brother back to life. Then he dropped some on the dog and the horse, and they all came to. They went home, put their

horses and dogs away, entered the lodge, and sat down. The younger one's wife saw them, and was unable to tell them apart. On the following day they started to return to their parents. When they came to a forked road, they decided to go in different directions. The elder one took one road, and said, "I will go this way, and my name will be God." The other said, "I will follow the other, and I will be the Devil." That's the end of it.

2. CINDERELLA.¹

A man whose wife died left him with a daughter. He married a widow with two ugly daughters. When the man went away, his daughter sat in the corner amid ashes, and never said anything. One night all the girls of the town were invited to a dance. The old woman said the youngest could not go, and the man went with the step-daughters. Their shoes would not fit, so they cut their feet to make them fit. The old woman tried to straighten their noses. One young man thought the youngest daughter should go. He jumped in his rig and asked her to come along; but she said she had no clothes, and that her step-mother would strike her. The young man drove home, got some good clothes, and took them to the girl, for he was a manitou. He dressed her and took her along. When the people saw how pretty she was, every one looked at her and admired her. She danced twice and went home. She had a little box given her; and she was to name whatever clothes she wanted, and they would be there. When she undressed, the clothes all disappeared in the box. When they came home, the homely girls scolded her. On the following day the young manitou came in and talked to Cinderella. The homely ones were jealous, and tried to induce him to pay attention to them. They were very angry when he left. They wanted to do away with Cinderella.

When she was out, they found her box. Then they sent her after the water that sings.² She left the lodge and went along the trail on which her grandmother lived, who said, "*Nosis*, where are you going?" The girl told her. "You can get it, you are a pretty girl, but you will be twice as pretty again. After you have dipped it, you will hear music. Do not look back, but go ahead!" She obtained the water and carried it home. Her sisters were not able to look at her on account of her shining beauty. They asked, "O my dear sister! how far is that water?" — "Not far." — "O mother! we will go for some to-morrow." One of them started, and came to the grandmother, who asked where she was going. "I am going to get the water that sings." — "Oh, you will be pretty if you do as I tell you. You will hear music, but do not look back!" The girl came back. She said

¹ See Bolte and Polivka, *l. c.*, vol. i, p. 165.—F. B.

² *Ibid.*, vol. ii, p. 380.—F. B.

to the grandmother, "Do not speak to me! I am going to be a pretty girl." — "Oh, then you will be five times as homely." Her mother fainted when she saw her daughter coming, trailing her nose, which had grown enormously long. She asked her pretty step-daughter what she had done, and beat her. The girl told her what had happened. She sent Cinderella off into the bush, where there were wolves and bears. The girl knew that they wanted her to die. Soon she lost her way. She crawled under a tree.

Soon a young hunter came by. He heard something under the tree, and found her, covered by her hair. He asked her if she was lost. She said, "Do not come near me! I have no clothes." The hunter went off, got some clothes, and dressed her. He took her home.

When her step-mother learned about this, she went to see her, and pretended to be very friendly. She kissed her, but took the opportunity to take away all but her old clothes.

Again all the girls were invited out, and they left the pretty one at home. When all were gone, the girl's grandmother walked into the house, and said, "Grandchild, why are you here? You are pretty, you ought to be among the people." She found the box of clothes for her, opened it, dressed the girl, and took her to the dance. The chief's son happened to be there. He took a fancy to her, took her home, and married her. The young woman had a baby, and her step-mother was nursing her while her husband was away. The old woman stuck a pin into the wife's neck and made an elk of her, that ran away. Then she put her homely daughter in her place. When the husband came home, his mother-in-law told him that he would be surprised to see that his wife, owing to her sickness, had turned to be the ugliest creature on earth. The young man said, "I do not care how ugly she is, as long as she is alive." The mother-in-law cooked, and the husband came in and kissed and hugged his pretended wife. All at once at dinner-time an elk walked into the house and nursed the baby, then walked out again. Thus it came nearly every day. The husband asked his false wife what she would like to eat, and she said, "I should like to eat an elk." The young man went out, shot the elk, and broke a hind-leg of the animal, which, however, succeeded in getting away. In the morning the elk hobbled in and nursed the baby. The husband liked the elk, petted her, and tried to bandage the broken leg. By chance he pulled out the pin from the neck, and at once his wife stood before him with broken leg. He said nothing, but went out and ordered his soldiers to take the old woman and her daughter out and to hang them. Then his wife recovered. They started out to find Cinderella's father and her other sister. They killed the latter and took the father-in-law with them, and they have been living there ever since.

At the last dance the girl lost her shoe, and the chief's son found it.

3. TICON (PETIT-JEAN).¹

Ticon was living with his mother, for his father was dead. There were two kings ruling over the land. Ticon was poor: he had only one cow and one steer. One day, in a rage, he killed them. He skinned the cow and stuffed it. Then he put wheels under its hoofs, and dragged it to town. On the way he met the two kings, who gave him nine beans for it.

His mother was vexed. "What will you do with those?" she asked.

"Oh, I will make some money yet," he replied. So he got a lot of pails and filled them with dung, loaded them into an ox-cart, and started for town singing.

In the mean time the kings took the cow home, but it neither ate nor voided. They found that it was stuffed, and started after Ticon. Soon they met him with his load. They inquired of him what he had, and he replied, "Oh, I am selling good syrup."

They bought it of him and went home, one driving, the other walking. The one on the cart could not wait till he got home, so he tasted the syrup; and, as soon as he found out what it was, he spat it out. Then he said to his comrade, "Let us change off for a while! You may ride, and I shall walk." Then the same happened to the other king. "Hai!" said he, "do you know what we bought? Why, it is dung! Let us kill Ticon to-morrow!"

Ticon suspected that they would be after him, so he took a bird's pluck, filled it with blood, and tied it about his mother's neck. "Now, mother, I shall pretend to kill you when they come," he said.

When the kings approached, he stabbed the pluck, and his mother fell down, all bloody. The kings were horrified. "Oh, that is all right!" cried Ticon. "I can make her alive." So he blew up her back with a bone whistle. "That will bring any one to life," he said, "and it will even make a bad woman good!" Then his mother sprang up.

The kings willingly paid him a large sum for his whistle. That night one of them quarrelled with his wife and killed her. His children wept, so he tried to bring her to, but he did not succeed.

However, he told the other king that it was all right. He tried it too; but it did not work for him either, no matter how hard he tried. He ran to his friend, and cried, "Hai, I have killed my wife!" — "So have I! Let us make a bag and put Ticon in it, and drown him in the sea!"

They caught Ticon and put him in a bag, and took him away in a wheel-barrow. All the way Ticon was singing, "I am going to heaven to-day!" After a while they stopped for a drink; so they hung the bag containing Ticon from the branch of a tree. While

¹ See Bolte and Polívka, *l. c.*, vol. ii, p. 1.

they were gone, an old shepherd came along and heard him singing. He asked Ticon why he was so happy. Ticon replied that he was going to heaven. Then the old man offered to change places with him. The kings took the bag out to sea in their ship, and cast it overboard. On their return, they overtook Ticon driving home the shepherd's flock. "Why, where did you come from?" they asked. "If you had dumped me in the centre of the sea, I should have had better cattle!" he cried. "O Ticon! what will you take to put us there?"

Ticon had them make two bags, told them to get in, and sing certain songs. He told them that when they were thrown overboard, they would meet the king under water, who would give them cattle.

Then he took them out and threw them into the sea, saying, "You will never get any cattle!"

4. TICON WINS THE PRINCESS.

A youth was once raising his younger brother. He treated him well and bought him clothes to wear; but the little fellow destroyed them, and slept on the floor naked. When the boy was nearly grown, his elder brother received a letter that said that the king's daughter would soon be married. She would accept whoever could propose a puzzle that she could not solve. Three chances were allowed; and if the princess guessed each correctly, the propounder would go to jail. The contest was to take place four days later, at noon.

In order to get there on time, the elder brother had to start that night. He wondered what he should do, as there was no one to watch his younger brother Ticon. Just then four more young men came up, and asked, "Where are you going?" — "Have you not heard about the king's daughter?" They decided to go together, but to leave Ticon behind, because he was so foolish. All that night the young men sat up inventing puzzles, while Ticon slept. The next morning they told him to stay behind, while they all set out together.

The young men walked till noon, when they stopped for lunch. At evening they discovered that Ticon was following them. He had no shirt, only an old torn coat that he had to hold together, and a piece of tallow that he carried for lunch.

"What shall we do?" asked the young men, one of another. "Oh, well! take him along. We shall get rid of him somehow."

When camping-time came, they saw at a distance a long lodge. They dug a hole, put Ticon into it, and told him to stay there, and not to come to the house, because he was too dirty. They promised to feed him.

In the house they found an old man, his wife, and two girls. These people were glad to see the young men, and offered them food. While they were eating, in came Ticon. While he was eating, he had greased

himself all over with tallow. The girls saw him at once, and exclaimed, "Oh, look! Who is this?"

Ticon tried to scare the girls, and began to play with them. They fed him, and he staid all night with them, while the others worked on their puzzles, and finally he went to sleep on the floor. Early in the morning the young men arose and left; and when Ticon woke up, there was no one there. As he opened the door to leave, the old man stopped him, and offered him food, saying, "You will overtake them."

After Ticon had eaten, the old man gave him a rag which was rolled up. "Now, Ticon, I shall give you this rag," he said. "You will never be short of food. Count the number of people whom you want to feed, and then unwrap the rag. Always tie it at your shoulder."

At dinner-time Ticon caught up with his companions. "Let us eat dinner here!" said he. He counted them, unwrapped and spread his rag, and it was covered with boiling and steaming food.

"You stole this magic rag," the brothers said. "No," replied Ticon, "the old man gave it to me." After dinner Ticon wrapped up his rag and tied it on his shoulder.

Just before night they came to another long house, similar to the one they had found before. This time the youths put Ticon in the haystack. The young men entered the house, and found an old man, his wife, and two daughters. Meanwhile Ticon, in eating, had covered himself all over with grease. Then he came in. The girls liked him and fed him, and he played with them, while the young men wrote all night. Ticon finally went to sleep on the floor of the lodge, and the others left before he awoke. When Ticon found that he had been left, he started to follow, but, just as he was going out, the old man stopped him. "Hold on! I'll give you something," he cried. He took a little bottle and shook it. Immediately it became large, and full of whiskey. "No one will ever drain it," said the old man.

At dinner-time Ticon caught up with the others. He gave them all food on his rag. Then he took out his bottle, shook it, and all had a drink. When Ticon put it back into his pocket, there was none missing.

At night they came to another long house. They hid Ticon in the haystack and went in. They found an old man, his wife, and two daughters. Meantime Ticon greased himself as before, and came in. As usual, the girls liked him and played with him, and he slept on the floor while the others studied. When Ticon awoke, the others had already gone, and he started to follow; but the old man stopped him and gave him a small fiddle, saying, "I give you a fiddle that is heard everywhere; and all who hear it will dance, and cannot stop while you play." Ticon took the fiddle and went off. At noon he

came to town and found the others; but they were ahead and refused to stop for him, so Ticon fiddled, and they all danced. Ticon walked along playing, and, though the others tried to stop him, they could not do so. They cried, "O Ticon! you stole it;" but Ticon replied, "No."

After dinner they locked Ticon up, because they said he was too stupid to go to the palace. They left him in an old stable while they themselves went to the king's house. Ticon, however, got out and followed them. He peeped through a crack in the palace door and saw all the others sitting there. They tried and lost, and were put in jail. This made Ticon angry. While waiting there, he saw an egg, which he put in his bosom. He saw a door-latch and took that. Then he eased himself in his hat and took that. Then he smeared himself all over with grease, and went in laughing.

"What is this?" cried every one. The king's daughter was much surprised. Ticon walked right up to her and handed her the egg. "Cook this for me," he said. "Give me something to cook it with," she demanded. "Cook it with this," said Ticon, giving her the stick. "Give me your fæces," said the princess. Ticon handed her the hat. "Here they are, tied up in this!"

"You are beaten," said the king to his daughter. "No, I will not marry him," said the princess. "He must go to jail."

So Ticon was put in jail. "Here comes Ticon!" said his brothers and the others as they saw him enter. Ticon began to play on his fiddle.

After a while a porter came with dry bread and water. "Take it out," said Ticon. "No, it is your food," he replied.

Ticon threw it out of the window, and told the porter to watch while he fed the people in jail. He counted them, opened his rag, and there was a fine, hot, steaming dinner. After they had eaten, he opened his bottle, and they all had a drink. The porter was astonished. Ticon wrapped up his rag and put away his bottle. Then he fiddled, and they all danced. The officer had to dance until he was worn out. When Ticon stopped, he went and told the king and the king's daughter that Ticon had thrown away all the dry bread, fed the prisoners, and made them dance.

The princess wondered if Ticon would sell the rag, so she sent the officer to ask him. Ticon replied, "Oh, no! I will not. If I should sell it, these poor fellows would all starve."

When the officer reported this to the princess, she told him to go and tell Ticon that she would buy it at any price.

"All right," said Ticon, "provided she will do what I tell her. I am going to say to her, 'Come here in your night-dress and sit on this chair for five minutes!' That is all I shall ask."

The king's daughter agreed to do this: so she came and sat down, and Ticon looked at her for five minutes. Then he gave her the rag.

Presently the officer came for the bottle, but Ticon would not sell it. The princess then offered to give him anything. "If she will do my will, I will sell it to her. I am to sleep all night outside her room on the roof."

The king's daughter agreed to this, and soon had the bottle. She next sent her officer over to try to get the fiddle. Ticon refused at first, but on her second attempt he agreed, provided he could sleep on the floor in her room, while she was to sleep in her bed. "I shall ask her three questions too, and she is to answer 'No' each time."

So it was arranged that way; but the king ordered police and soldiers to be there with torches. After a while Ticon asked, "My king's daughter, are you going to have light all night?"

"No," replied the princess, so Ticon ordered the lights out.

"My king's daughter, are these policemen to be here all night?"

"No!" So Ticon ordered them sent out, and they were alone. The king heard all this, and said, "She is beaten again."

Then Ticon said to the king's daughter, "Am I to sleep on the floor all night?"

"No," said she. So he won.

The next day they cleaned Ticon and dressed him up, and he married the king's daughter. The others were let out of jail.